

# INTRODUCTION TO REMOTE SENSING FOR WILDFIRE APPLICATIONS

**COURSE DATES: EVERY TUESDAY, MARCH 31- APRIL 28** 

TIME: 11:30 AM-12:30 PM EDT

# **Important Information**



- One lecture per week every Tuesday from March 31 to April 28 (11:30 AM – 12:30 PM EDT)
- Webinar recordings, PowerPoint presentations, and homework assignments can be found after each session at: <a href="http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/disasters/webinars/introduction-remote-sensing-wildfire-applications">http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/disasters/webinars/introduction-remote-sensing-wildfire-applications</a>
- Certificate of Completion
  - Attend 4 out of 5 webinars
  - Assignment 1 and 2 access from the ARSET wildfire webinar website (above)
  - You will receive certificates approximately 1 month after the completion of the course from: marines.martins@ssaihg.com
- Q/A: 15 minutes following each lecture and/or by email (cynthia.l.schmidt@nasa.gov)

#### **ARSET Wildfire Management**



http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/eco/webinars/land-management

Registration: https://arset.adobeconnect.com/wildfire/event/registration.html

Agenda: Agenda: NASA\_ARSET\_Wildfire\_Webinar\_Agenda.pdf

Keywords: Ecosystems, Fires and Smoke, Satellite Imagery, Vegetation Indices

Instruments/Missions: Landsat, MODIS, NPP, SMAP, VIIRS

#### Presentations and Recordings

Week	Date	Title	Presentation	Recording	Assignment
1	March 31, 2015	Overview of remote sensing	<ul><li>✓ Week 1</li><li>✓ Week 1</li><li>✓ Presentation</li><li>(Spanish)</li></ul>	View Week 1 Recording	N/A
2	April 7, 2015	Satellite sensors and data products for wildfire applications	Week 2 Presentation Week 2 Presentation (Spanish)	View Week 2 Recording	Assignment
3	April 14, 2015	Remote sensing products for pre- and post-fire wildfire planning and assessment	Week 3 Presentation Week 3 Presentation (Spanish)	View Week 3 Recording	N/A

# NASA

## **Your Course Instructors**

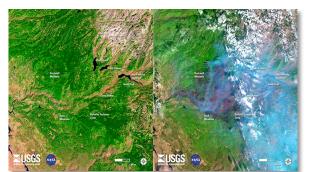
- Cindy Schmidt (ARSET): <a href="mailto:cynthia.l.schmidt@nasa.gov">cynthia.l.schmidt@nasa.gov</a>
- Amber Kuss (ARSET): <a href="mailto:amberjean.m.kuss@nasa.gov">amberjean.m.kuss@nasa.gov</a>
- Guest Speakers:
  - Tony Guay USDA Forest Service Remote Sensing Applications Center (week 3)
  - Keith Weber Idaho State University (week 3)
  - Dale Hamilton Northwest Nazarene University (week 4)
  - Amita Mehta NASA Goddard (week 4)
  - Lindsey Harriman LP DAAC (week 5)
    <u>Iharriman@usgs.gov</u>

General inquiries about ARSET: Ana Prados (ARSET) aprados@umbc.edu

# **Course Outline**



#### Week 1



Overview of satellite remote sensing

#### Week 2



Platforms and sensors for wildfire applications

#### Week 3



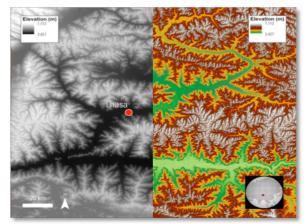
Products and tools for pre and post-wildfire

#### Week 4



New techniques and technologies

#### Week 5



Terrain data applications

# Week 4 Agenda



- Brief review of last week
- Guest Speaker: Dale Hamilton, Assistant Professor of Computer Science from Northwest Nazarene University
  - What is an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)
  - UAS benefits and concerns
  - UAS imagery for wildfire applications
- Guest Speaker: Amita Mehta, Research Scientist and ARSET team member at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center
  - □ Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) sensor overview
  - SMAP uses for wildfire applications
  - SMAP data products

# Review of Week 3

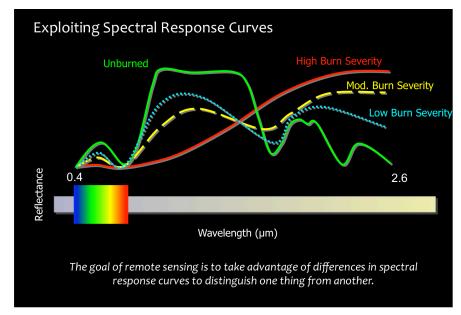
#### Week 3

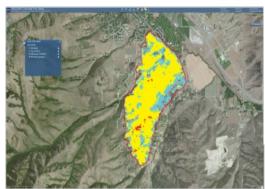


- Post-fire Mapping Support from the USDA Forest Service
  - Fire intensity vs. burn severity
  - Spectral response curves
    - Health vegetation vs. burned areas
  - Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)
  - Creating a Burned Area
     Reflectance Classification (BARC)

#### RECOVER DSS

- Rehabilitation Capability Convergence for Ecosystem Recovery
- How data are rapidly assembled in a GIS for use by the USDI BLM, Idaho Dept. of Lands, and other wildfire management agencies
- RECOVER live demo





**RECOVER Client Web Map** 

# Guest Speaker: Dale Hamilton



# THE USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) WITH WILDLAND FIRE

#### **Dale Hamilton**

Assistant Professor of Computer Science Northwest Nazarene University





# **UAS Session Objective**

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) represent a new technology that presents the possibility of making remotely sensed wildland fire data more:

Safe

Responsive

Affordable

## Overview



- What is a UAS?
- UAS Benefits
  - Responsiveness
  - Safety
  - Affordability
- UAS Concerns & Constraints
  - Regulatory Constraints
  - Privacy Concerns
  - Data

## What is a UAS?



An unmanned aircraft and all of the associated support equipment, control station, data links, telemetry, communications and navigation equipment, etc., necessary to operate the unmanned aircraft. (<a href="www.faa.gov">www.faa.gov</a>)





# Small UAS (sUAS) Benefits

- UAS Improve Safety
  - Safety is top priority Wildland Fire Leadership Council
  - Unmanned = no one onboard
  - Not restricted by conditions imposed on manned aircraft.
    - Night operations
    - Limited visibility
  - Perform observations unsafe for ground based personnel

## **UAS** Benefits



- UAS Are Responsive
  - Timeliness/Availability
  - Hyperspatial imagery
  - Supplement Helicopter acquired imagery
  - Initial Attack

## **UAS** Benefits



- UAS Are Responsive
  - Mop-up operations
  - Post fire assessments
    - Post-fire recovery plans (BAER teams)
    - Update fire history atlases
    - Update vegetation (fuels) geospatial data to reflect fire disturbance
    - Management of future fires
  - Enhance communications

## **UAS** Benefits



- UAS Are Affordable
  - Consumer grade UAS can be purchased for as little as \$1000
    - Very easy to fly
    - Technology improving to automate flight management
  - Contracting cost for a UAS is close to half of the cost of a manned helicopter.
    - Advanced Aviation Solutions / Empire Unmanned
      - www.adavso.com



## **UAS Concerns & Constraints**

- Regulatory Constraints
  - FAA Authorization
    - Certificate of Authorization (COA)
    - Section 333 Exemption
  - Federal Agency Guidelines
    - USDA Forest Service
      - Agency guidelines under development
    - DOI Bureau of Land Management
      - Aviation Services has a nationwide COA
      - Offer training for BLM personnel



## **UAS Concerns & Constraints**

- UAS Privacy Concerns
  - Public Perception
  - Presidential Memo on Federal Use of UAS







## **UAS Concerns & Constraints**

- UAS Generated Data
  - Management of Large Amounts of Hyperspatial Data
    - 1000 acre fire ~= 30 Gigabytes of Data
    - Pixel Count Comparison by Resolution
      - 1 acre at 1inch = 1.4 million acres at 30m
    - Process individual images into georeferenced orthomosaic
  - Extraction of Knowledge
    - Geoanalytics to look at Imagery and extract Actionable Knowledge

# **UAS Image Capture Capabilities**





Image taken with a DJI Phantom 2 Vision Plus at 200 ft.

# Agency Points of Contact for UAS

- USDA Forest Service
  - Bob Roth

Aviation Management Specialist
Fire and Aviation Management – Washington Office
rroth@fs.fed.us

- US Department of Interior
  - Brad Koeckeritz

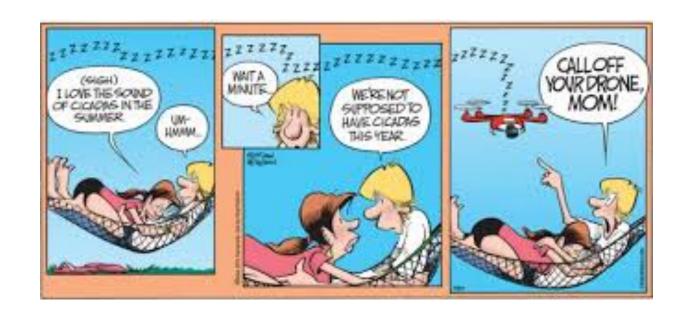
National Unmanned Aircraft Specialist

DOI - Office of Aviation Services

Bradley\_koeckeritz@ios.doi.gov







Dale Hamilton dhamilton@nnu.edu

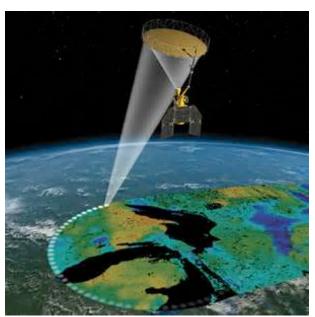


# Guest Speaker: Amita Mehta

#### **Outline**

- Soil Moisture and Wildfires
- Overview of NASA Soil Moisture Data
- Overview of Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) Mission
- SMAP Data Products
- SMAP Applications





#### Soil Moisture and Wildfire

Impacts of soil moisture conditions on regional fire activities are well documented, for example:

- Satellite observations of terrestrial water provide early warning of drought and fire season severity over Amazon (Chen et al., 2013)
- Soil moisture impacts fire severity and extent of burned area in the Siberian Forest (Bartsch et al., 2009)
- Past season's soil moisture condition provide a good prediction of fire indices (Forkel et al., 2012)
- Satellite-based vegetation and soil moisture help monitor fire risk (Dashupta and Qu, 2006)

Fire also has significant influence on soil moisture conditions through loss of vegetation and is an important factor to consider for post-fire management activities (http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs\_gtr042\_4.pdf)

#### **NASA's Satellites for Soil Moisture**

Satellite	Sensors	Quantities	
Aqua	Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer for EOS (AMSR-E) (May 2002 to October 2011) (Level-3 data at 25 km Equal area grids)	Snow Water Equivalent, Sea Ice, Soil Moisture, Rain Rate	
TRMM (Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission)	TRMM microwave Imager (TMI)  (November 1997 to present – but will end soon)  (Level-3 gridded data available at 1/8th degree)	Rainfall, Vertical Rain Profile, Soil Moisture	

Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) was launched in January 2015, dedicated for high-resolution, high-quality soil moisture measurements

# Overview of NASA's Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) Mission

#### **SMAP Mission**

http://smap.jpl.nasa.gov/mission

- SMAP is designed to measure the amount of water in the top 5 cm (2 inches) of soil everywhere on Earth's surface
- SMAP will also determine if the ground is frozen or thawed in colder areas of the world
- SMAP will produce global maps of soil moisture



SMAP was launched on 31 January 2015

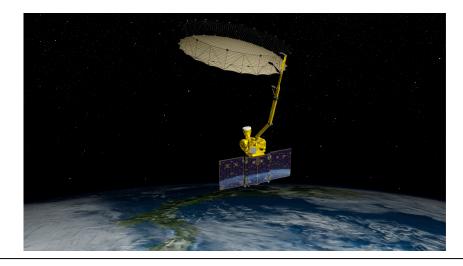
#### **SMAP Mission**

http://smap.jpl.nasa.gov/observatory/specifications/

SMAP is in a near-polar orbit:

Altitude 685 km Repeat Ground Track 8 Days Measurements: 6 am/pm

- SMAP mission life is expected to be ~3 years
- SMAP coverage:
   Global land area at three-day
   average intervals,
   Land region above 45N at two-day average intervals



20-foot (6-meter) reflector antenna on NASA's new Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) observatory to begin spinning for the first time.

#### **SMAP Sensors**

http://smap.jpl.nasa.gov/observatory/specifications/

#### SMAP carries two sensors

Sensor	Frequency (L-Band)	Spatial Resolution
Radar (Synthetic Aperture)	1.26 Ghz	10 km Soil Moisture 1-3 km Freeze-Thaw
Radiometer	1.41 Ghz	40 km ( IFOV 38 km x 49 km)

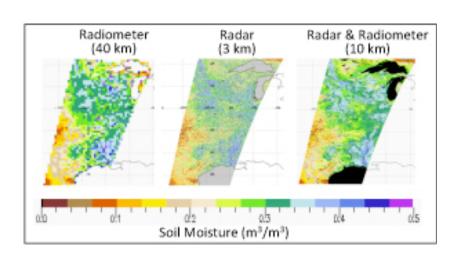
# **SMAP Data Products**

#### **SMAP Data Products**

http://smap.jpl.nasa.gov/data/

SMAP Data Products Include Soil Moisture Content and Freeze-Thaw Sate

- More accurate soil moisture data from the radiometer with lower resolution (36 km) are combined with higher resolution (3 km) but less accurate moisture data from the radar
- The combined data provide accurate soil moisture (units m³/m³) maps with resolution of 9 km



SMAP algorithm details can be found at

http://smap-archive.jpl.nasa.gov/science/dataproducts/ATBD/

#### **SMAP Data Products**

http://smap.jpl.nasa.gov/data/

Product	Description	Gridding (Resolution)	Latency**		
L1A_Radiometer	Radiometer Data in Time-Order	-	12 hrs		
L1A_Radar	Radar Data in Time-Order	-	12 hrs	Instrument Data	
L1B_TB	Radiometer $T_B$ in Time-Order	(36×47 km)	12 hrs		
L1B_S0_LoRes	Low-Resolution Radar $\sigma_{\scriptscriptstyle 0}$ in Time-Order	(5×30 km)	12 hrs		
L1C_S0_HiRes	High-Resolution Radar $\sigma_{\scriptscriptstyle 0}$ in Half-Orbits	1 km (1-3 km)#	12 hrs		
L1C_TB	Radiometer $T_B$ in Half-Orbits	36 km	12 hrs		
L2_SM_A	Soil Moisture (Radar)	3 km	24 hrs	Science Data (Half-Orbit)	
L2_SM_P*	Soil Moisture (Radiometer)	36 km	24 hrs		
L2_SM_AP*	Soil Moisture (Radar + Radiometer)	9 km	24 hrs	(Hall-Olbit)	
L3_FT_A*	Freeze/Thaw State (Radar)	3 km	50 hrs		
L3_SM_A	Soil Moisture (Radar)	3 km	50 hrs	Science Data	
L3_SM_P*	Soil Moisture (Radiometer)	36 km	50 hrs	(Daily Composite)	
L3_SM_AP*	Soil Moisture (Radar + Radiometer)	9 km	50 hrs		
L4_SM	Soil Moisture (Surface and Root Zone )	9 km	7 days	Science	
L4_C	Carbon Net Ecosystem Exchange (NEE)	9 km	14 days	Value-Added	

Over outer 70% of swath.

SMAP Data Merged with Land Surface Model

<sup>\*\*</sup> The SMAP Project will make a best effort to reduce the data latencies beyond those shown in this table.

<sup>\*</sup> Product directly addresses the mission L1 science requirements.

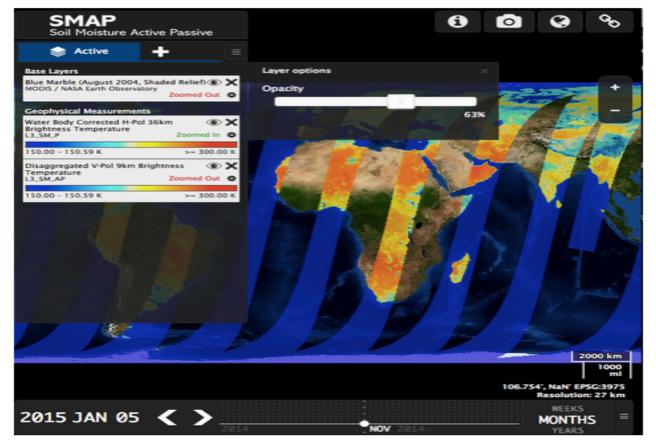
#### **SMAP Data Viewer Coming Soon**

http://smap.jpl.nasa.gov/map/



Coming in 2015, the SMAP Viewer.

Science team members with access, click here to log in to see the BETA version.



#### **SMAP Data Products Portals**

http://smap.jpl.nasa.gov/data/

- The SMAP science data products will be available to the public through two NASAdesignated Earth science data centers
- The Alaska Satellite Facility (Level 1 radar products) <a href="https://www.asf.alaska.edu/">https://www.asf.alaska.edu/</a>
- The National Snow and Ice Data Center (all other products) <a href="http://nsidc.org/">http://nsidc.org/</a>
- The SMAP data products will be in Hierarchical Data Format version 5 (HDF-5) format

### **SMAP Data Products Availability**

http://smap.jpl.nasa.gov/data/

- The SMAP mission is currently conducting a post-launch calibration and validation (Cal/Val)
- The duration of the Cal/Val phase:

6 months for Level 1 products 12 months for Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4 products

## **SMAP Data Products Strengths**

- High-resolution and highaccuracy than earlier soil moisture data from AMSR-E/ TMI
- Better sensing over vegetated surface
- Deeper soil moisture (1-5 cm) available
- Freeze-Thaw state available





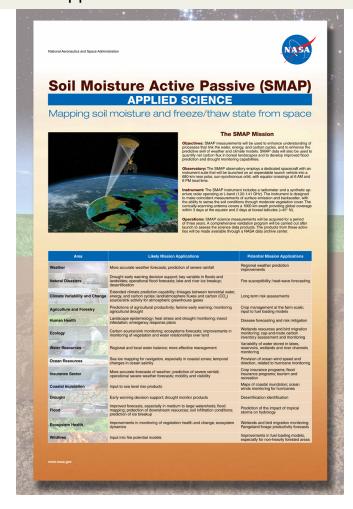
## **SMAP Applications**

### **SMAP Application Areas**

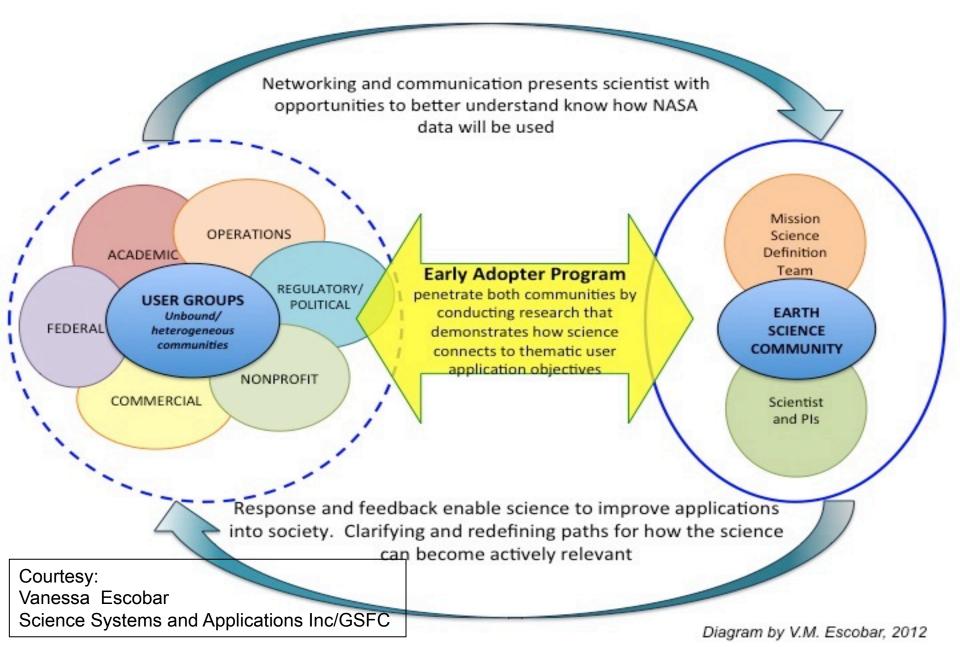
http://smap.jpl.nasa.gov/science/applications/

- Weather and Climate Forecasting
- Droughts and Wildfires
- Floods and Landslides
- Agricultural Productivity
- Human Health
- National Security

Applied Science Poster available from the SMAP Applications Web-site



## **SMAP Early Adopter Concept**



SMAP Early Adopters							
Investigator and Institution Applications Research			Гор	ic			
Selected in 2011							
	Stephane Belair, Meteorological Research Division, Environment Canada (EC)	Assimilation and impact evaluation of observations from the SMAP mission in Environment Canada's Environmental Prediction Systems					
2	Hosni Ghedira, Masdar Institute, UAE	Estimating and mapping the extent of Saharan dust emissions using SMAP-derived soil moisture data					
3	Zhengwei Yang and Rick Mueller, USDA National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS)	U.S. National cropland soil moisture monitoring using SMAP			Courtesy: Vanessa Escobar Science Systems and Applications Inc/GSFC		
	Catherine Champagne, Agriculture and Agri- Food Canada (AAFC)	Soil moisture monitoring in Canada					
5	Amor Ines and Stephen Zebiak, International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) Columbia University	Seasonal climate forecasts with dynamic crop simulation models for crop forecasting and food security early warning applications					
	Lars Isaksen and Patricia de Rosnay, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)	Monitoring SMAP soil moisture and brightness temperature at ECMWF					
7	Xiwu Zhan, Michael Ek and John Simko, NOAA National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, Center for Satellite Applications and Research (NOAA-NESDIS-STAR)	Transition of NASA SMAP research products to NOAA operational numerical weather and seasonal climate predictions and research hydrological forecasts					
Selected in 2012    Court Permelde USDA Ferreign Agricultural   Ferbanging USDA's clobal group wedgetion more)   Michael Ek, Marouane Temimi, Xiwu Zhan,   Internation of SMAD ferreign Agricultural   Internation of SMAD ferreign Agricultural							
٥	Curt Reynolds, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)	Enhancing USDA's global crop production moni SMAP soil moisture products	12	NOAA National Cent	ers for Environmental		Integration of SMAP freeze/thaw product into the NOAA NCEP weather forecast models
9	John Eylander, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL)	U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development adoption for USACE civil and military tactical s	13	Prediction (NCEP)  John Galantowicz, a  Environmental Rese			Use of SMAP-derived inundation and soil moisture estimates in the quantification of biogenic greenhouse gas emissions
10	Jim Reardon and Gary Curcio, US Forest Service (USFS)	Wildfire danger and estimated smoldering pote soils of the North Carolina coastal plain	14		<b>ngfeng Wang, Rafael Bras and Aris eorgakakos</b> , Georgia Institute of Tecl		Application of SMAP observations in modeling energy/water/carbon cycles and its impact on weather and climatic
11	Gary McWilliams, Li Li, Andrew Jones and George Mason, Dept. of Defense - Soil Moisture	Exploitation of SMAP data for Army and Marine assessment		(GIT) Kyle McDonald, Cit	v College of N	ew York	predictions
Applications Consortium (SMAC)			15	(CUNY) and CREST I	Institute, and <b>Don Pierson</b> , of Environmental Protection		Application of SMAP freeze/thaw and soil moisture products for supporting management of New York City's potable water supply
SMAP Early Adopters			16	Chris Funk, Amy M	cNally and James Verdin,		Incorporating soil moisture retrievals into the Famine Early Warning System (FEWS) Land Data Assimilation System (FLDAS)
			17	Fiona Shaw, Willis,			eNCOMPASS – A risk identification and analysis system for insurance; Multiple catastrophe risk models, risk rating tools and risk indices for insurance and reinsurance purposes including a Global Flood Model
Adopters			18	Rafael Ameller, StormCenter Communicati Inc.		nmunications,	SMAP for enhanced decision making (emergency management)
-			Sele	Selected in 2013			
through mid 2013			19	Jonathan Case and Space Flight Center Center			Application of Next-Generation Satellite Data to a High-Resolution, Real-Time Land Surface Model with SMAP.
			20	Barbara S. Minske, sponsored by John I			
			21	Thomas Harris, Ex Solutions	elis Visual Info	rmation	Utilization of SMAP Products in ENVI, IDL and SARscape-Products L1 to L4

## **SMAP Early Adopters Examples**

http://smap.jpl.nasa.gov/science/early-adopters/

USDA has VegScape for accessing, visualizing, assessing and disseminating crop soil moisture condition derivative data products produced using SMAP data

Global Insurance and Re-Insurance

Willis Global Analytics is merging satellite data from NASA into existing risk identification and analysis systems for insurance and reinsurance, engaging end users to enhance decision making with SMAP products.



**USDA** VegScape Application

### **SMAP Application for Wildfire**

http://smap.jpl.nasa.gov/science/applications/

#### SMAP Data will be useful to:

- Assess conditions conducive to wildfires
  - Surface soil moisture
  - Vegetation water content
- Determine prescribed burning conditions
- Estimate smoldering combustion potential of organic soils
- Provide input for post-fire burn severity assessment
- Improve wildfire information with SMAP soil moisture products to provide more useful and accurate data on toxic air-quality events and smoke white-outs (increasing transportation safety)

# Thank You

Amita Mehta

email: amita.v.mehta@nasa.gov

## **Appendix**

#### References:

Bartsch, A., H. Balzter, and C. George, 2009: The influence of regional surface soil moisture anomalies on forest fires in Siberia observed from satellites, *Environ. Res. Lett.* **4** 045021 doi:10.1088/1748-9326/4/4/045021,

Chen, Y., I. Velicongna, J. Faniglietti, J. Renderson, 2013: Satellite observations of terrestrial water storage provide early warning information about drought and fire season severity in the Amazon, JOURNAL OF GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH-BIOGEOSCIENCES, 118, DOI: 10.1002/jgrg.20046.

Dasgupta S. and J. Qu, 2006: Combining MODIS and AMSR-E based vegetation moisture retrievals for improved fire risk monitoring,

<u>Proceedings of SPIE - The International Society for Optical Engineering</u> 01/2006; 6298. DOI: 10.1117/12.681147

Forkel, M., T. Kirsten, B. Christian, C. Wolfgang, B. Sergey, C. Schmullius, 2012: *ENVIRONMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LETTERS*, 7 (4), DOI: 10.1088/1748-9326

# Coming up next week!

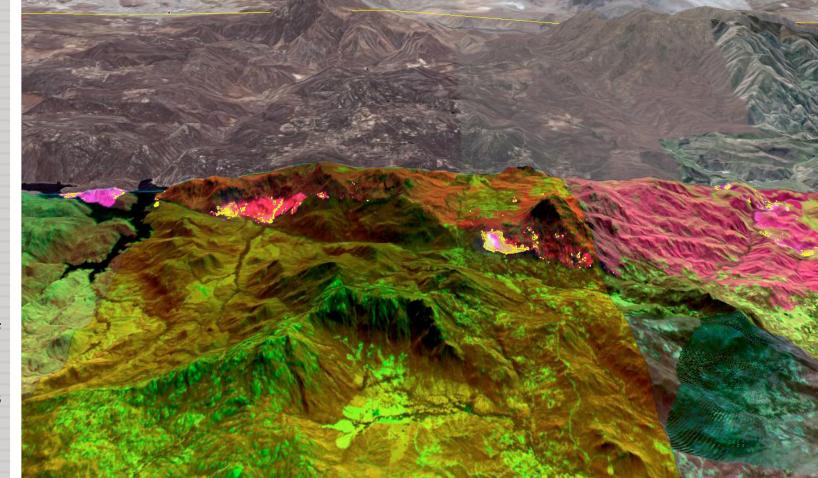
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Thermalinfrared image from NASA's Ikhana unmanned aircraft of the Harris fire in October 2007. The active wildfire fronts are in yellow and red, while hot, previously burned areas are in shades of dark red and purple. Unburned areas are shown in green hues.



## Thank You!!

Cindy Schmidt
Cynthia.L.Schmidt@nasa.gov